

June 17, 2009

Dear Parents,

According to federal law, the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*, students must be provided an opportunity to attend another school within the school district if the students are enrolled in a Title I served school identified as a school in need of improvement. A school is identified as in need of improvement based upon a school not meeting the state's definition of adequate yearly progress (AYP) for two years consecutively. Many people confuse the rating on the school report card (unsatisfactory, below average, average, good, excellent) with AYP. The state rating is not part of federal law, nor is it related to the school choice option.

By law, schools are required to make choice available for students not later than the first day of the school year. In South Carolina test results do not come back prior to the start of school. Therefore, the United States Department of Education has required our state to make a preliminary determination of schools that may be identified for school improvement upon which parents may be allowed the choice option prior to the final school improvement determinations being made.

Based on preliminary data, the South Carolina Department of Education has identified Petersburg Primary School as a school that is required to offer public school choice for the 2009-2010 school year. Therefore, school choice will be offered to all students in 5 year old kindergarten through grade 2.

A list of the schools available as choices has been provided on the attached Request For School Choice Transfer form. Also included is a School Summary Sheet providing information about your child's school and the schools of choice to which you may transfer your child.

If you are interested in participating in the choice transfer option, please complete the attached Request For School Choice Transfer form and return it to the school district office. All requests must be received by no later than **4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 8, 2009**. Please maintain documentation for your records that the request was submitted prior to the deadline date.

The school district will provide transportation to the school of choice, if requested. However, funds for this purpose are limited. Should the requests for choice transportation exceed the amount of funds made available by federal law, student transfers based on choice will only be granted for a limited number of students within the transportation cost allowance, with priority being given to those students with the greatest instructional need. Due to limited transportation funds, it is possible not all students requesting transportation will be able to receive a transfer to their school of choice.

You will also note on the request form that we have asked you to indicate your preference of choice schools in rank order. We will respect your first preference, to the extent practicable, when assigning your child or making decisions about transfers.

Please return the request form to the school district office indicating the choice that you feel is in the best interest of your child. The address and fax number are on the request form. ***You do not need to return anything if you want your child to remain at Petersburg.***

This same legislation allowing for school choice includes a provision for supplemental services (after-school tutoring) for eligible students of low-income families attending schools that have been in school improvement status for more than one year. Eligible students at Petersburg Primary will be offered these services. However, it should be noted that students are not entitled to both choice and supplemental services. In other words, a student who chooses to transfer to a school of choice will **not** be eligible for supplemental services.

You may contact Ann Huntley, Title I Coordinator at Chesterfield County School District, or me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Marcus Sutton
Principal

SCHOOL SUMMARY

We would like to share with you information about Petersburg Primary School. Please use this when making a decision about your child for the 2009-2010 school year.

Grades Served: PreK-2

Total Number of Students Enrolled: 418

Total Number of Staff: 61

The school is implementing many effective practices and programs that we would like to share with you, such as:

- Providing early interventionists to work with small groups
- Providing opportunities for staff to attend workshops and conferences to keep abreast of “best practices”
- Communicating with parents to make them aware of student progress and school activities

When determining the status for Petersburg Primary, data must be collected from third grade data at Pageland Elementary School. This is because there is no state testing for kindergarten through second grade. Adequate Yearly Progress is determined in the areas of reading and math only. The school’s report for adequate yearly progress for the 2007-2008 school year (based on results of 2008 test analysis) indicated:

- Pageland Elementary’s third grade met its goals in 12 of 17 categories.
- Improvement is needed in the areas of math and reading for all subgroups.

The results for the 2008-2009 school year will not be available until later this summer. A comparison of Petersburg Primary to others in the state in terms of academic achievement and other indicators as shown on the 2008 Annual School Report Card shows:

Petersburg Primary Absolute Rating				Excellent
Absolute Ratings of Primary Schools with Students like Petersburg:				
Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	At Risk
7	0	1	0	0

The school plans to address the problem by:

- Providing professional development for all teachers
- Expanding the analysis of test data to target areas of need
- Providing workshops for parents
- Continuing to monitor student attendance
- Providing teachers for additional small group instruction to identified students

The district will assist this school by:

- Providing opportunities for professional development in the areas of language arts and math
- Providing the Measure of Academic Progress assessment to target students for extra assistance
- Providing assistance as the school implements plans for improvement
- Providing a computer lab for students to work independently
- Providing a reading assessment and training to assist as teachers plan for instruction

Parents can become involved in helping us to address the academic issues that caused this school to be identified for school improvement by:

- Seeing that the child attends school regularly and on time
- Communicating with the child's teacher/teachers regularly
- Insisting that all homework assignments are completed
- Attending school functions such as PTO meetings, Open House, Reading/Writing/Math Nights

You may choose for your child to attend Ruby or Edwards Elementary School. Please see information comparing these schools to others in the state below. This information is found on the 2008 Annual School Report Card.

Ruby Elementary Absolute Rating Average

Absolute Ratings of Elementary Schools with Students like Ruby:

Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	At Risk
0	6	49	34	1

Edwards Elementary Absolute Rating Average

Absolute Ratings of Elementary Schools with Students like Edwards:

Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	At Risk
0	4	48	38	1

**CHESTERFIELD COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
REQUEST FOR SCHOOL CHOICE TRANSFER**

Name of Child: _____

School : Petersburg Primary School

Grade: _____

Name of Parents/Guardians: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

If interested, please return this form to the address or fax number below **NO LATER THAN 4:00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2009**. The school district will not be able to honor requests received after the deadline. *You do not need to return anything if you want your child to remain at Petersburg Primary School for the 2009-2010 school year.*

I would like to request that my child be transferred to:

(Indicate 1 for first choice, 2 for second choice.)

_____ Ruby Elementary School

_____ Edwards Elementary School

Please check the appropriate space below:

_____ I would like to have transportation provided to the school of choice. I understand that the transfer will be for the entire 2009-2010 school year. If I move out of the Petersburg attendance zone, my child will attend the assigned school for my new residence, not the transfer school.

_____ I will provide transportation for my child to attend the school of choice.

Should you have any questions, please contact:

Ann Huntley, District Title I Coordinator

401 West Blvd.

Chesterfield, SC 29709

843-623-5515

FAX 843-623-3434

ahuntley@chesterfield.k12.sc.us